

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

In the above-identified Office Action the Examiner has rejected Claim 1 as anticipated by or, in the alternative, obvious over the European publication to Cox et al. Applicant has amended the claims so that they now recite that the members which form the foam-structure are irregularly distributed within or upon the web. As set forth in the specification page 7, the irregular distribution can be defined by its pattern repeat which here is at least 0.5cm and preferably at least 1cm. This irregular distribution is mainly a random distribution where there is no repetition of the pattern of the member within the plane of the core material. This pattern has been found to be suitable for manufacturing sheep article with a very high surface quality. This irregular distribution which defines itself over the art particularly over the cited European publication. Applicant believes Claim 1 to now be patentable thereover.

In addition, Applicant has added new claims 26 and 27 relating to the fact that the members form isles within or upon the web and these isles are surrounded by channels. Further, Claim 27 recites that the members are formed of a closed cell foam-structure. Neither of these aspects are shown in the cited European publication and, as a result, Applicant believes these claims to be patentable as well.

Applicant hereby requests reconsideration and reexamination thereof.

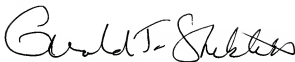
No further fee or petition is believed to be necessary. However, should any further fee be needed, please charge our Deposit Account No. 23-0920, and deem this paper to be the required petition.

With the above amendments and remarks, this application is considered ready for allowance and applicant earnestly solicits an early notice of same. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of

the subject application, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below listed number.

Application No. 10/529,436
Amdt. dated 2 March 2009
Reply to Office Action of 5 January 2009

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald T. Shekleton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gerald" being more prominent and the last name "Shekleton" following in a similar style.

Dated: 2 March 2009

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